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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 001719

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/27/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [KNNP](#) [BA](#) [CTR](#)
SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: PARTICIPATION IN PSI EXERCISE LEADING
EDGE

REF: STATE 158756

Classified By: DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Pol/Econ Chief, accompanied by OMC Navy Chief, September 27 delivered reftel demarche concerning Bahrain's participation in the PSI exercise Leading Edge to MFA Assistant Under Secretary for Coordination and Follow Up Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa. Given the advanced stage of preparations for the exercise with the Bahraini Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior, Shaikh Abdul Aziz was surprised not to have heard about it earlier and appreciated the briefing provided by EmbOffs. He approved of the exercise, saying we should all be ready in case a situation arises while at the same time hoping that it never does. He commented that the exercise's approach, which maintains a broad view of possible WMD proliferators rather than narrowing it to a single country (read, Iran), was appropriate and would result in a more successful exercise.

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